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February 19, 2013

RE: Justification for increase of Pesticide Registration Fee

NAC 586.011

FROM: Director Jim Barbee

With potential listing of the Sage-Grouse as an endangered species, and 82% of Nevada lands under federal management, we face the single most significant economic impacting issue in recent times. The listing of the Sage-Grouse would have a direct negative impact on the Mining, Agriculture, Hunting, and Recreational and Tourism Industries which would dramatically reduce the state's Gross Domestic Product. This would lead to significant job loss in rural areas that would directly impact the urban economic development opportunities.

It is clear that the listing of the Sage-Grouse as an endangered species would create a ripple effect across all industries and reduce economic activity across all consumers within the state of Nevada.

Habitat loss and subsequent dominance by invasive species is the most serious threat to Sage-Grouse habitat in Nevada. (Strategic Plan for Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse in Nevada, July 31, 2012; Governor Sandoval's Greater Sage-Grouse Advisory Committee). It is imperative that the Nevada Department of Agriculture utilize resources to carry out the statutory mandate of Noxious Weed eradication and control. Specifically, Nevada Revised Statute requires the Nevada Department of Agriculture to set aside a portion of the Pesticide Registration Fee for the purpose of eradication and control of invasive plant species (noxious weeds). It is also imperative that NDA take action to aid the multi-agency and industry represented Sage-Grouse council to ensure the Sage-Grouse is not listed as endangered species and protect the state's economy.

Recognizing that the proposed increase in this fee would make Nevada the second lowest pesticide registration fee of all surrounding states, and the negative potential impact on the economy of a Sage-Grouse listing, it seems clear that taking this action is reasonable.

Thank you for your support.